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Santa's Holiday Magazine

Old favorites are hot again

Continued from Page 1A

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every retailer's list.

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The toy is an import, and although retailers are not expecting a shortage, Geisler cautions parents to shop early.

Winnie the Pooh continues to be very popular with the pre-school set. New this year is Bounce Around Tigger, a toy that works on a battery, talks, and bounces.

The Children's Television Workshop is introducing a new line of "Sesame Street" toys called Walk and Talk and features several popular characters of the long-running children's show, from Cookie Monster to Elmo.

Men, women think alike on gift-giving

Men are most likely to purchase a holiday gift they know their spouse really wants. Women, on the other hand, are likely to choose something they think their husband should have.

So says the Wild Turkey Bourbon 1998 Holiday Gift Giving Survey.

Surprisingly though, 95 percent of the husbands polled said they never received a gift they didn't like. If they did, it was usually some type of apparel.

According to Lynda Fitzgerald, Wild Turkey brand manager, there were some surprising fundamental differences in the buying habits of men and women revealed by the survey, which was conducted by Beta One Market Research on behalf of Wild Turkey.

For instance, one-quarter of the couples surveyed admitted they had actually forgotten to buy their spouse a gift due to

the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Men were more likely to have forgotten than women, and the longer a couple was married, the more likely they were to forget.

In contrast, 86 percent of newlyweds • those married less than three years • said they have never forgotten to buy their spouse a gift. The majority of couples (57 percent) always exchange gifts.

Overall, husbands and wives strive to buy something the other person wants. Men tend to be more romantic and buy women personal or intimate items or something they really want them to have. Women, however, have a more practical outlook when purchasing for their spouse; they are apt to buy something functional as well as personal or intimate. Wives are also much more likely to buy their husbands something related to the household.



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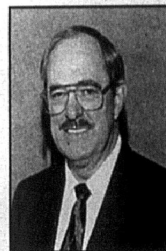


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Rev. J. Archie Strong
Sr. Pastor

Old favorites, new styles make up top toy wish list

Continued from Page 8

pumped up with a bicycle pump and can fly about 100 yards." Air Hogs sell for \$39.95.

Another unique toy is Coin Struction, a toy that uses real money to make a variety of structures from robots to helicopters in prices that range from \$9.95 and up.

"This is one of those gifts that you can buy a kit and wrap it up with rolls of pennies or nickels and the child can have fun for hours. The kit comes with instructions for making more than one item and little connector pieces," explained St. Pierre.

A real popular toy is the Rokenbok radio-controlled play station construction site. The object is to move building materials around the construction site on conveyor belts, trucks, and other vehicles.

"The toy was mentioned on the Today Show and traffic has been steady ever since. The kids just stay and play for as long as the parents are willing to wait," said St. Pierre.

The command deck sells for \$150 with several additional play sets available to expand the play. The toys can be used with Legos building blocks.

The Target store in Glen Carbon is stocked and ready to go for Christmas, according to Rick Gardner, store manager.

"The item that we are getting the most inquiries about right now is Furby, a talking animal that looks a lot like a 'Gremlins'-type character. It is a fluffy, interactive toy that talks in Furbish, that is like a bigger version of a gig-a-pet," explained Gardner.

Furby sells for about \$25 and moves off the shelves as quickly as they are stocked.

The British musical group Spice Girls are giving Barbie some competition this year with a whole line of dolls with fashion and tattoos, a recording studio playset, and more.

Children's cable television networks like Nickelodeon have created a new market for the star of "Blue's Clues", a big blue dog who helps his friends solve puzzles. Target carries a full line of books,

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The new Disney movie, "A Bug's Life," which premieres

Thanksgiving weekend, has produced a whole line of toys, alarm clocks, posable figures and more. Once the kids see

the movie, Gardner predicts the toys will move quickly.

See OLD, Page 11

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Santa's Quality Flooring Specials!

Commercial Level-Loop \$3.50 Sq. Yd. & Up	No Wax Vinyl \$2.95 Sq. Yd. & Up	Plush Pile Carpets \$6.95 Sq. Yd. & Up	Kangaback Carpet \$5.95 Sq. Yd. & Up
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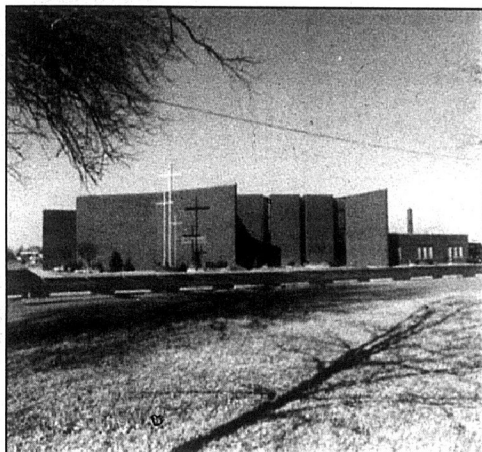
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Santa's Holiday Magazine

Books are an easy gift for every avid reader on your holiday shopping list

Continued from Page 6

crackers for roof tiles, pretzel chairs and etc.

"The Amazing Pop-Up Multiplication Book," by Kate Petty, is a fun way to learn math.

"Pooh's First Clock," inspired by A. A. Milne's classic Winnie the Pooh stories, has movable hands gears, and lots of interesting noise to stimulate children.

"10 Minutes Till Bedtime," by Peggy Rathmann, finds a family of hamsters arriving just before bedtime for a tour. Follow the zany antics of the visitors while they watch the little boy get ready for bed.

"Welcome to the World, Baby Girl!," by Fannie Flagg, author of "Fried Green

Tomatoes" and "The Whistle Stop Cafe." This book is homespun Southern fiction set in a more modern time with gentle humor.

"Reservation Road," by John Burnham Schwartz, is a riveting novel of suspense surrounding the tragic hit-and-run death of a young boy and the two families involved.

"The Gifts of the Magi," by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, is the story of the three wise men and the treasures of the first Christmas. The book is packaged with samples of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

"The Night Before Christmas," by Jan Brett is a beautifully illustrated book of the famous poem by Clement Moore. This is a must-have addition for the family

Christmas library.

"Silent Night for Peef," by Tom Hegg, is a sequel to the first Peef book about the patchwork bear. The story continues with another visit from Santa and is as wonderful as the first.

Some new releases include: "All through the Night" by Mary Higgins Clark.

"Into Thin Air," the story of a disastrous, tragic climb to the top of Mount Everest, by Jon Krakauer.

"Die Trying," by Lee Child, is a mystery with a lot of fast-paced action.

"Mark McGwire: Celebrating 70," is a swing-by-swing replay of all 70 home runs, by The Sporting News and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, with a forward by Cardinals announcer Jack Buck. This book is available in

both hard- and soft-cover editions.

"Mark McGwire: Slugger," by USA Today baseball writer Rob Rains, is a book filled with photos of the glorious run for the record. "Home Run Hero" is another book by Rains about McGwire.

Here are a few of the new books by popular authors:

"Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul II," a book a short, inspirational stories by many authors.

"Something More," by Sarah Ban Breathnach.

"Hammer of Eden," by Ken Follett.

"For the Love of the Game," by Chicago Bulls great Michael Jordan.

"Path of Daggers (Wheel of Time No. 8)," by R. Jordan.

"The Hundred Days," by Patrick O'Brian.

"When the Wind Blows," by James Patterson.

"Vampire Armand," by Anne Rice.

"The Reef," by Nora Roberts.

"By the Light of My Father's Smile," by Alice Walker.

Andi has one final piece of advice for gift-givers or book lovers. "One of the best ways to insure that you get the book you want for Christmas is to fill out a wish list next time you are in the store. That way, your friends and relatives won't have to guess. We'll even gift-wrap the purchase," Andi said.

And for those who cannot decide, there is always a gift certificate. That is definitely a gift where size will not matter.

New Mickey watches retain classic style

The Mickey Unlimited Bracelet Collection by Lorus puts a new spin on the classic Mickey Mouse watch this holiday season.

These new Mickey Mouse watches still feature everyone's favorite pal, Mickey, on the face, but the watches themselves are examples of modern style at its best.

"They are fashionable adult watches," says Lorus spokesman Vince Lewis. "However, they also happen to have an element of fun about them, thanks to Mickey, that makes them stand out in today's watch market."

Watches from the Mickey Unlimited Bracelet Collection are available in a variety of shapes and sizes, each with a different array of features.

Santa tops holiday parade

Continued from Page 2

Hours for the Santa Cabin are tentatively set at 5 to 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, noon to 8 p.m. Saturdays and 1 to 8 p.m. Sundays. More times may be added closer to Christmas, she said.



Gliksgiving Sale



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Fall Tops
SALE 20% Off Select Stock

LEI Fashion Pants & Jeans
ONLY \$27.90 Regularly \$29-\$36

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SALE \$27.90 Regularly \$29-\$32

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Squeeze Overalls
SALE 20% Off Entire Stock

GIRL'S 7-16/CHILDREN'S

Denim Jeans & Overalls
SALE 20% Off Entire Stock

Carter/Healthtex/OshKosh
SALE 20% Off Entire Stock



MEN'S

Fall Tops
SALE 20% Off Select Stock

Casual Pants & Denim Jeans
SALE 20% Off Select Stock

BOY'S 8-20

Twill Pants & Denim Jeans
SALE 20% Off Select Stock

GLIK'S

BELLEMORE VILLAGE

MON-SAT 9:30-9:00, SUN 12-6

GLIK'S CHARGE VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

Sale Good Through 11/25-12/1

Free Gift Wrap.. Free Gift Wrap.. Free Gift Wrap..

There's plenty of toys for everyone this year

By Ellen Drenkhahn
Correspondent

What is the hottest toy on everyone's Christmas Wish List this year?

We went to the experts at several local toy stores and asked what Santa would be bringing this year, and this is what they said:

Sharon Reynolds, owner of Across the Board in Collinsville, sells educational toys for all ages. Her picks for Christmas include the GeoSafari Talking Globe and Talking Globe Junior by Educational Insights. Both geography interactive games sell for \$99.95 each.

Another electronic favorite is MathShark, which retails for \$39.95 and is designed to enhance basic math skills for ages 6 years up to pre-algebra level math. In addition, MathShark doubles as a calculator.

Hot Dots is a new electronic version of flash cards with flashing lights, sounds and instant rewards for correct answers. The Hot Dots power pen reads hot or cold dots and responds accordingly. Sets are sold for \$39.95 or pens and dots can be purchased separately.

Across the Board is a great

place for stocking stuffers with all kinds of stickers, pencils, erasers, craft kits, magnets, books, magnetic puzzles, and Ty Beanie Babies.

Across the Board is located at 121 East Main Street. Store hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Once Upon A Toy opened its newest store at 2460 Troy Road, Glen Carbon, earlier this month. The building looks as unique as the merchandise inside, which is the effect that store owner Steve St. Pierre wanted.

The store carries all-time favorites from the American Girl doll collection and Madame Alexander dolls, to Thomas and Brio train sets, Playmobile fun sets, Toobers & Zots building sets and much more.

"It's hard to give just one answer on what is hot or popular because that depends upon the age of the child," said St. Pierre. "The Air Hog air-powered airplanes are popular with boys over 8 years



A visit to Santa

No child's Christmas season is complete without at least one visit to the man himself, Santa Claus. The enduring symbol of Christmas conducts business throughout the festive season, listening to and granting the fondest wishes of children through the Metro-East area and around the world.

See TOYS, Page 10

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MARK MCGWIRE

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Happy Holidays

From These Fine Merchants

Thursday, November 26, 1998—JOURNAL (GC) Page 7

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GET ONE FREE**
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Mexican & American Food
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Hours: M-F 11:00 AM-2:30 PM
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**Happy Holidays
and Best Wishes
from
THE STAFF of
the
Granite City
Journal/Press
Record**

Books are perfect holiday gift for all

By Ellen O. Drenkhahn
Correspondent

Books are perhaps the perfect gift for any occasion, but especially at Christmas.

Filling a Christmas stocking with a wonderful gift is as easy as making a visit to the nearest bookstore, like Piece of Mind Books in Edwardsville.

Owner Andi Romick-Allen is happy to assist customers in finding the perfect book for any reader, from the very small to the very wise. Andi is an avid reader herself and gladly gives impromptu book reviews when asked. That is an invaluable resource in choosing gifts for others.

"When choosing a book for someone else, it is helpful to know if they have a favorite author or what types of books they prefer — like mysteries, biographies, best-sellers, historical fiction, that kind of thing," said Andi.

Her new store located in the Montclair Shopping Center is large and roomy and filled with books for all ages. The book store is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Here are some of Andi's favorites for this year's Christmas list: "Twelve Gifts of Birth," by Charlene Costanzo, is a must for soon-to-be or new mothers, as well as older children leaving home for the first time. The book describes the special gifts given to children at birth.

"Look-Alikes," by Joan Steiner, is a creative picture book with familiar everyday scenes with a twist. Some of the objects in the picture are not really what they seem — pencils instead of columns, crayons for fence posts,

See BOOKS, Page 8



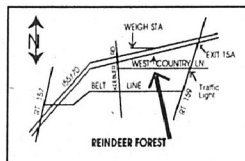
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Caughron shows holiday spirit daily

By Scott Kelly
Staff writer

The Christmas spirit of giving strikes many people starting around Thanksgiving, but Don Caughron has it year-round.

For eight years, the people at Don's Hardware, 1839 Delmar Ave. in Granite City, have collected new and used toys for the area's needy children. Don's "Toys for Joy" has collected thousands of toys for area tots.

"We've collected over 800 toys so far," Caughron said, and more are coming in all the time. Many kids do not have a Christmas until you give them toys, so Caughron and company step in to fill youngsters' stockings.

"Last year we had over 1,500. I'll have more this year," he said.

One year, the store typically had a bundle of toys left over a couple of days before Christmas. Caughron put an ad on the radio and people came for the toys.

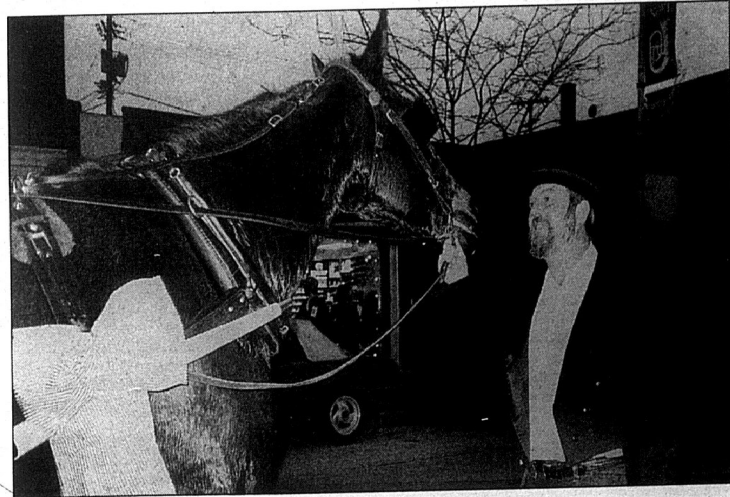
Women even had tears in their eyes.

Caughron's activities are not limited to the Christmas season, however. He and his friends and family collect and give out food to needy families year-round.

He said they have fed more than 3,600 families since 1990. With a small notebook, he keeps track of the people they have helped.

One year, they had 35 families come in to the hardware store right before Christmas. There were so many of them that they couldn't wait on customers, he said.

For an extra incentive this year, Caughron will have a drawing for an autographed Mark McGwire baseball hat for all those who donated toys. Anyone wishing to donate should either bring toys to the store or call 451-7532 to arrange a pickup.



Sleigh ride

Christmas is a time for many things...among them, rides on horse-drawn sleighs, as this person shows from last year's Granite City holiday parade. Depending on the location and the weather, there may be many traditional holiday sleigh rides taken this year throughout the area.

Salvation Army launches fund campaign

Continued from Page 3

It also increases donations because volunteer bell-ringers know people in the community

and can raise more money. The Salvation Army serves the Edwardsville, Highland, Collinsville and Tri-City areas.

Colip said they are taking applications at The Salvation Army area headquarters, 3007 E. 23rd St., Granite City, from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday and from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursdays.

To apply, people should bring proof of residency and income.

Colip said he had "no idea" how many people would apply for food baskets.

"It always starts out real slow," he said. "We only had 146 families apply (in a recent week). They seem to wait till the last minute of the last week."

In addition to holiday food baskets, they also maintain a food pantry, which is "not bad" at the present, said Colip.



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Orthodox churches mark Christmas later

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

By January 1, most people are starting to think about taking down the Christmas decorations, if they haven't already.

But not everybody. For members of the Armenian Orthodox and some other orthodox churches, the actual celebration of the birth of Christ will take place Jan. 5-6.

"Ours is strictly a religious celebration," said the Rev. Vartan Kassabian, pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church in Granite City.

"(The orthodox traditions) have survived quite nicely, even though Dec. 25 has been highly secularized by commercialization," he said.

While maintaining ancient customs — Armenia was the first country converted to Christianity — he said Armenians have adopted Dec. 25 as the time for gift giving.

Diamonds anybody's best friend

By Mark Hodapp
Staff writer

Tony DeWalt puts a different spin on the old saying about girls and diamonds.

"They're pretty much anybody's friend," said DeWalt, a sales associate at Krigel's Jewelers. "Diamonds are a piece that will never go away."

For that matter, diamonds are a great Christmas gift that probably will never go out of style, Charles Blanquart said. Blanquart should know.

The co-owner of Blanquart Jewelers in Belleville, Blanquart said diamonds are very popular Christmas gifts.

"This is the peak time of the year," he said.

Platinum and white jewelry also are popular gift items this year, Blanquart said. In his view, these colors are popular because they match other colors easily.

But before purchasing any jewelry, Blanquart and DeWalt said consumers should ask questions about the quality and warranty on the item they are considering purchasing.

Gift giving was traditionally on Dec. 31 to celebrate the new year.

"But we've never lost sight of the fact that Jan. 6 is the day we celebrate the birth, manifestation and revelation of Our Lord Jesus Christ," he said.

The difference stems from the ancient differences between the Roman Church and the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox churches.

Prior to the fourth century, the entire Christian church celebrated the birth of Christ on Jan. 6. At that time, the Roman church separated the nativity and epiphany, Kassabian said.

The Dec. 25 date

corresponded closely to the winter solstice, usually a high point of pagan celebrations in the pre-Christian Roman empire.

"In Armenia, this change didn't spread," Kassabian said. "The Armenians, seeing no reason to suppress any kind of pagan celebrations, remained faithful to the ancient church and maintained Jan. 6 as the feast of the nativity and the epiphany of Christ."

Kassabian said traditional celebrations of Christmas include a period of fasting from Dec. 30 to Jan. 5. The fasting ends with the end of the divine liturgy that evening. "According to tradition in

Armenia, the children and younger men would leave church and go to the homes of the elders and visit the elders," he said.

They would have a meal, then go to church the next morning.

On Jan. 6, the evening liturgy service would include the blessing of the waters.

The ceremony includes having a "godfather" take the cross and dip it into the water.

Several drops of holy oil are also placed in the water, which is then given to worshipers.

After the service, the holy

water remaining is taken to those in hospitals and nursing homes.

In addition to the Armenian Church, Coptic Orthodox churches — Egyptian and Ethiopian — celebrate Christmas on Jan. 7, as well as the "old calendar" Russian Orthodox Church.

Kassabian said the Armenian patriarchy of Jerusalem does not celebrate Christmas until Jan. 19, because of the 13-day disparity between the Gregorian — or modern — and the Julian calendars.

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Rev. R.G. McGehee, Pastor

Peace Church
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Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.
Bible Study Wed. Night.....7:00 p.m.
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Tri City Assembly
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Santa's Holiday Magazine

Local Salvation Army launches annual drive

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

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"I think we have close to 25 locations," he said. "Whether we'll have them all manned, I'm not sure."

This year's goal for both bell-ringing and corporate donations is \$225,000. Last

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Colip said they are also short on volunteer bell-ringers.

"We have people applying to work, but we really need service clubs, churches or groups of any kind," he said.

"If they do that, it automatically saves us \$60 in wages we have to pay."

See SALVOS, Page 5



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The wedding gown is a satin brocaded gown from the early 1940s and the gentleman's

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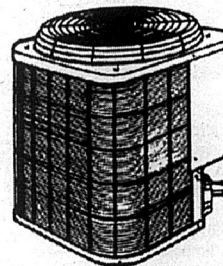
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Santa makes his way back to Granite City

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By Scott Kelly
Staff writer

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The second annual Santa's Holiday Avenue parade is scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving, and organizers are hoping it will be bigger than last year.

Santa's Holiday Avenue is the new Christmas celebration brought about by numerous business owners, city officials and interested parties to make the holiday spirit shine once more in the downtown Granite City area.

In addition to the parade, Santa Claus will hold "office hours" for several weekends until Christmas in Santa's Cabin at the park between Niedringhaus Boulevard, 20th Street and Delmar Avenue. Scores of decorations, lights and live music complete the festive atmosphere.

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their storefronts to complement the park display. Committee members began decorating at the park Nov. 14.

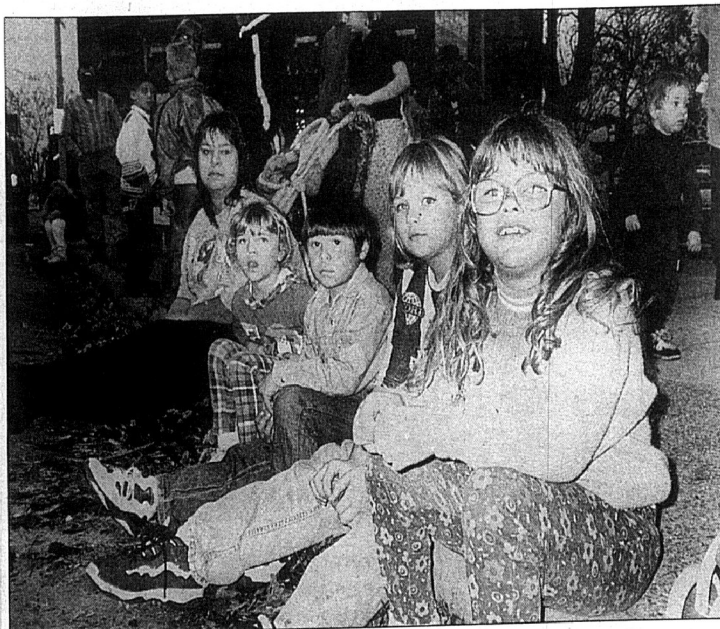
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Judges will decide on the best floats, Whitaker said. There are more prizes this year, she said. Judges will award \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place, and three \$100 prizes for third place.

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See SANTA, Page 9

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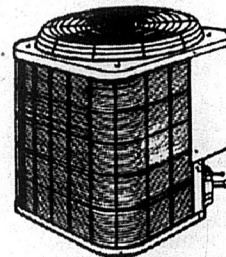
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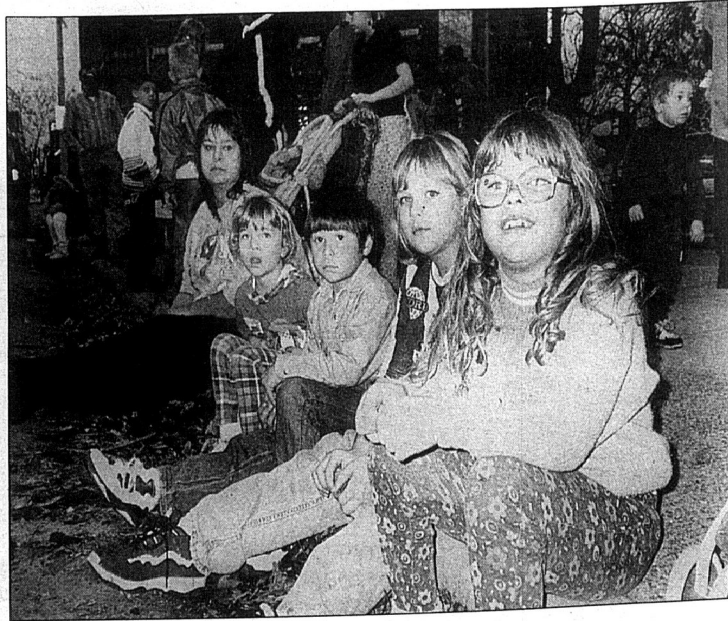
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Santa's Holiday Avenue *Christmas Magazine*

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